# VISCOUNT PT1

At TITAN MISSION CONTROL the team are inspection a new launch platform standing 50 ft high.

It's a dull overcast day and pelting buckets of rain, christening the roof of mobile homes the VISCOUNT COMMITTEE have christened MISSION CONTROL with holy water .

The team are having PG TIPS in the common room, before there inspection of the ROCKET SILO .

JAMES SWIFT The construction crew are having a long weekend and are on the ferry back to Holland JON.

JON SANDINGER We have all systems go and can start training astronauts.

PROFESSOR TREVITHICK You know it was the same in WONG WONGA in the northern territories back in the 50's , when I was in charge of the BLUE STREAK rocket program .

JENNY TREVITHICK I might have a couple of friends from uni , to make up crew numbers.

JENNY A couple of late drinking sessions at the student union bar with my chief designer here and the VISCOUNT happened in a dream papa. Though I needed the experience of a grand old space boffin to design the engines.

PROFESSOR TREVITHICK Yes I controlled the vertical take-off in those day's but this time I want to control a more askance .

JENNY You mentioned the horizontal take-off professor .

PROFESSOR TREVITHICK This new craft has a ramp to take it down into the valley and up the other side propelling it into the stratosphere.

JENNY So when breakaway power is reached the ramp thrusts it up and away, the turbine jets, like an airplane's kick in then the main boosters thrust her into space.

PROFESSOR TREVITHICK That's right my dear, you ready Jon.

Jim Fergusson If we keep our new computer expert here contented then that makes two crew members. And there are some lads over at the aircraft hanger constructing THE VISCOUNT who might come on the training program.

They walk out of the mobile home and put there boots on then walk up to a mound of earth which opens the large pot hole currently cordoned off with tape,

JAMES SWIFT I'll have a close look at the equipment stock and gear for our contractors to start next week and then I'll join you Jon.

JON SANDINGER Well done JAMES, the crew from clicknologic industries have messaged to say we had better be ready to escort them over to the hanger.

PROFESSOR TREVITHICK If the dam thing flies I hope you can clear it with air traffic control Jon.

SANDINGER If I'm still with you when the VISCOUNT passes MARS it shall all be worth it. Just make a large fry up jenny as our guests will probably want some.
As James comes down from the huge stack off steel rigging awaiting assembly a large truck comes over the rolling hills of Derbyshire and parks in the loose gravel car park. A large flock of starlings come over turning the skyline very dark and the wind and rain has become a torrent.

Ian Bannan jumps down from the cab pulling his coat tight against the pelting onslaught and runs over to him.

IAN BANNAN We are here from clicknologic industries and have bought you inter mix chamber for your space ship.

JAMES SWIFT Terrific let's get out of the rain and into mission control Jon is expecting you.

Vice chancellor Martin Emerson steps around from the driving seat and joins them and they traverse the loose gravel car park to the prefabricated building.

VICE CHANCELLOR MARTIN EMERSON I was expecting something more high tech than mobile homes.

GABBY MACDOOGLE Titan is the fifth moon of Saturn Martin

They take seats in the confined space near the kitchen and the professor regales them with stories from his space mission.

TREVITHICK Every launch in Australia was a success but government funding ran out when North Sea oil was discovered. I still have the blue streak designs for you to look at.

IAN BANNAN I'd like to see them though we must get that lorry back

tomorrow and the sooner I can drop your package at your space craft the better. I don't want to drive back too late in this rain.

VICE CHANCELLOR MARTIN EMERSON Send them to me please and I'll give them to my students over at the university, let's get this equipment delivered to the builders .

IAN BANNAN Seeing a new space ship will be a boyhood fantasy come true.

GABBY MACDOOGLE I'll tag along to have a peak at how the new engine is fitted together, then I'll make the Vic out so easy to drive a five-year-old could fly it .

PROFESOR TREVITHICK Software for all onboard flight systems , Gabby and you should have all the data you need on your old COMMODORE 64 I bought you for your birthday.

JON SANDINGER That's it Professor get into character for when the series and documentaries start filming,

VICE CHANCELLOR MARTIN EMERSON I sometimes have to take lessons from the drama department of LOWLANDS UIVERSITY .

JAMES SWIFT Well off you go then and me and Jenny can stay here on the farm .

JENNY. That's right Jon, we got a randy bull up top field

They leave mission control and the beating rain has reduced to a light drizzle with the sun trying to find a gap in the cloudy sky. All six of them trudge down a short pathway to the gravel pit where the big lorry stands waiting alongside a Volkswagen campervan.

VICE CHANCELLOR MARTIN EMERSON Gabby how about you coming in our van so the boys can talk about this engine.

GABBY McDOOGLE Joins him in the big lorry while the other have a peak under the tarpaulin behind it. The vice chancellor climbs up into the cabin next to her and starts the large diesel engine.

VICE CHANCELLOR MARTIN EMERSON This will be there first peak at the INTER-MIX-CHAMBER that has cost your financiers so much money, not to mention swelled the coffers of the University.

EMERSON and McDOOGLE clamber into the large van and he pulls out a large chock lever beside the dash board and the engine splutters into life.

GABBY MACDOOGLE Yes I'm feeling queasy after that fry up Isn't that a fancy title for a space ship CARBORETTA vice chancellor.

VICE CHANCELLOR MARTIN EMERSON Which reminds me are you still auditioning for fit young SPACE CADETS to start your training program I might be able to help you.

GABBY MACDOOGLE You'll have to ask the Jon I just cook FISH FINGERS and deal with inboard flight systems.

VICE CHANCELLOR MARTIN EMERSON I invite all my heads off department ,and particularly the pharmaceutical companies sponsoring our biology wing to put there adverts in at freshers week. The new intake are virgin territory and don't know what they are letting themselves in for until it's too late.

GABBY MACDOOGLE I went to south bank college you can't fool me VICE CHANCELOR.

VICE CHANCELLOR MARTIN EMERSON All we have to do is wiz them to a discrete location and tell them it's for the future of mankind they'll sign up without reading the legal disclaimer in the small print of the contract. I've done it on countless occasions and never paid out compensation for loss of vital organs etc.

GABBY MACDOOGLE Very clever prying on the youthful exuberance of the first year students.

VICE CHANCELLOR MARTIN EMERSON Exactly but the time the young things have been with me at LOWLANDS UNIVERCITY for a term they've got chatting at union bars and post graduates stop them and tell them to look before they leap.

As they turn at the top of the next hill the lorry takes a steep bank over the brow of the hill and GABBY sees a huge aircraft hanger in the valley of the rolling hills that make up the Derbyshire countryside.They drive and park up next to SANDINGERS campervan and clamber down, the the shutter roll up revealing BULK CRUZER VISCOUNT, supported by a scaffold frame.

A middle aged man in an orange high viz jacket and hard hat comes out and greets them with .

JERAMY SAXON Glad you made it on time I'll call my construction workers off there tea break"

JON SANDINGER This is Jeremy Saxton our engineer and site Forman who has constructed the fuselage.

JERAMY SAXTON It's breath-taking isn't it now all the panels have been welded and riveted together.

They make their way into the large AIRCRAFT HANGER AND start a tour around the base of the craft which is housed in large docking pylons.

JON SANDINGER Yes and once this engine is complete we have an order
from EDWARD DINGLES PLASTIC FACTORY over at NEWTOWN for the furnishings, there fiberglass .

IAN BANNAN So are my doc martin boots, show me inside .

VICE CHANCELLOR MARTIN EMERSON WELL ITS ALL SYSTEMS GO THEN AND I CAN INSTRUCT Ian here and our small team in LEEDs to start production of the cargo release pods that I can just make out at the back off the main body.

Two boiler suited men come out of a door at the back off the hanger and come over.

JON SANDINGER This used to be an airport back in the sixties and I bought it cheap, though the facilities are quit good.

JERAMY SAXTON This is Bambi and thumper from paddy o Riley's steel metal workers LTD. They can get their crane and hoist the

inter mix chamber into the open panel at the back before we put the last panel and weld it in place.

BAMBI I'M BAMBI and he's Thumper, it's just that I hold the plate on while he bashes the rivets in.

THUMPER Or the other way around depending on who draws the short straw.

Jim Fergusson Alright then guy's I'll help get the tarpaulin off and make her ready, coming to give a hand Gabby.

GABBY MACDOOGLE , Yes alright Jim, let the men talk business.

They leave the hanger and head out into the sunshine which has finally broken through the cloudy skyline. The two welders follow and take a path to the right of the shutters to get a large crane on caterpillar tracks waiting at the side.

IAN BANNAN So I hear you are producing the fuel right here in a field Jon.

JON SANDINGER That's right Ian I got the field at the back from the local farmer and have installed freezing units to hold the liquid oxygen before it's loaded into the fuel tanks on both wings.

JON SANDINGER If all things go to plan vice chancellor and the cash boost from the film rights and sponsorship will lead to me sending more work to your CLICKNALOGIC INDUSTRIES.

VICE CHANCELLOR MARTIN EMERSON That sounds like a stroke of luck there Jon.

JAMES SWIFT So by the time we have made the ejector pods for waist products you will have the fixtures and fittings ready for her maiden voyage.

VICE CHANCELLOR MARTIN EMERSON JOLLY GOOD I like extra cash from sponsorship. So what have you in mind.

JON SANDINGER FIRST if this bulk cruiser makes it back to earth and the crew are unharmed I will want a mobile refrigeration unit for refueling at the TITAN MISSION CONTROL.

JAMES SWIFT A vehicle that can take the fuel from our processing and storage sight behind this hanger to the VISCOUNTS new

underground station .

IAN BANNAN I'll get on the design when I get back Jon.

JAMES SWIFT And then we will want you to built missiles for launching payloads from the same launch tubes, eventually for sending equipment down onto Mars for terra forming.

VICE CHANCELLOR MARTIN EMERSON I gather Duncan is over at Newtown this week checking on our fixtures and fittings on order.

IAN BANNAN So there's hope for us all reaching outer space and even we could walk on mars and breath its atmosphere.

VICE CHANCELLOR MARTIN EMERSON Very exciting Ian, and that reminds me one of my heads of department wants to change the design for that shuttle we have ready for shipment to EUROPEAN SPACE COMMAND CENTRE in French Guiana.

IAN BANNAN That may be so Martin, though we could not change the design if increases payload for an AREAN 5 ROCKET, the weight allowance will not increase and we are at the maximum for THE JUPITER SHUTTLE HOT DOG COMPANY.

VICE CHANCELLOR MARTIN EMERSON yes well I'll call president macrea in and if we have to book the VISCOUNT to take a large upgrade to the basic capsule.

The crane has lifted the inter mix chamber off the back of the truck and the shutters have pulled back and opened to let it glide into the chamber. Bambi guides the cargo in and aligns it with the open panel in the fuselage.

JON SANDINGER Panorama chemicals and the Foundation have put up much off the capital for this space ship and they will want to make the most of it. There planning to open a drive through restaurant in space as a publicity stunt.

JAMES SWIFT Well that's your job done today vice chancellor I'll send you an invite for the launch when we fix a date.

VICE CHANCELLOR MARTIN EMERSON wouldn't miss it for the world jon, and I might bring some of my staff for a field trip of a lifetime.

IAN BANNAN yes and he'll only charge a small fee.

JON SANDINGER thanks for your help Jeremy you should have a date

for the plastics to arrive very soon if I can get hold of Duncan Macrea.

They walk out of the aircraft hanger and give a wave to bambi and thumper gliding the space carberretta into place.

VICE CHANCELLOR MARTIN EMERSON You can take a ride with me back to base camp Jon I have an idea for your astronauts training I was telling that attractive computer wiz kid of yours.

JON SANDINGER Well I need men who can survive the DRUTHGO sleep and suspended animation system who are bright and enthusiastic.

VICE CHANCELLOR MARTIN EMERSON and I can get guinea pigs on the cheap Jon ,been doing it for years.

President Macrea phones mission control as he drives out of NEWTOWN, and gives Jon good news.

MACREA Hello there Jon ,I have just confirmed your order for the fitting of your space ship VISCOUNT, and our UNCLE WINKEY and EDWARD DINGLE gave me a personal tour of the resin molding rooms.

SANDINGER Right I have the team from clicknologic here with me know Duncan that's super. We have just inspected the ship and are ready for the fittings. And MARTIN EMERSON wants to speak to you. The vice chancellor snatches the phone out of the Jons hand [hello Macrea, I'm on my way back to Leeds and I want you to come over before final shipment, can you make it.

MACREA I'll be there have you found me a parking space with the teachers

VICE CHANCELOR MARTIN EMERSON
Phone me when you arrive and ask at the information centre and I'll have someone bring you up to my office .

The two from clicknologic industries leave mission control and are waved goodbye by GABBY.

Macrea drives his car into the driveway of CLICKNALOGIC AND THEN LEFT THROUGH A FENCE HEADING FOR THE CAR PARK of LEED UNIVERSITY .

They walk the dull grey concrete to reception and plonk his dossier on the desk with [ I'm president Macrea for a meeting with the vice chancellor my lovely ] Marlainer gives her winning smile as they walk to the lift taking them to the top of the building and then to the private apartments

VICE CHANCELLOR MARTIN EMERSON Ah MACREA THANK YOU ,

[USHERING THEM IN ] YOU KNOW PROFFESOR CROULEY the head of the science department and Ian of course .

IAN BANNAN And how is JUGHEAD.

Macrea Compulsory viewing and the pilot episode is in the can vice chancellor .

They sit themselves down on twin two seater bauge corduroy Loise escargot soffas and inspect laminated blueprints of the VISCOUNT .

PROFFESSOR CROULEY I'VE BEEN THROUGH THE BLUEPRINTS FOR the Jupiter hot dogs pod capsule and my department want to make some amendments.

VICE CHANCELLOR MARTIN EMERSON Yes Duncan but the AREAN 5 is blasting off next month, so if IAN is going to make changes to the pod in unit 2 of his workshop we need the go ahead .

MACREA Ian give me the edited highlights

IAN BANNAN THE PROFFESSORS AD ONS WILL FIT INTO THE JUPTER HOT DOGS SHUTTLE and the payload is in the parameters of the EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY .

PROFFESSOR CROULEY i'VE WANTED, to get my particle accelerator and hyperspace travel experiments started , and as your sending a man up with the capsule we just need your go ahead .

IAN BANNAN working on these blueprints I can increase the payload and the solar sails will fan out when the capsule reaches geostationary orbit above the red eye of JUPITER .

Macrea Then we'll send them to EUROPEAN SPACE CENTRE in south America and get final clearance before shipment of the JUPITER HOTDOG SHUTTLE to the launch site .

VICE CHANCELLOR MARTIN EMERSON CAN'T WAIT FOR LAUNCH DAY at EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY LAUNCH NEXT MONTH,

MACREA ` right now I have to collect Marlainer and get back to LOCK LOMOND .

He gets up from the lois escargo arm chair and shakes hands with the university staff .

VICE CHANCELLOR MARTIN EMERSON I'LL see out and then over to clicknalogic for final fitting and shipping arrangements.